

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and a check for \$790 to cover the RCE filing fee payment are being filed with this Amendment. Authorization is granted to charge our deposit account no. 03-3415 for any additional fees necessary for entry of this Amendment.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sakamoto (U.S. Pat. No. 5,780,944) patent in view of the Aoshima (U.S. Pat. No. 5,384,506) patent. Applicant has amended applicant's independent claim 1, and with respect to this claim, and its dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended applicant's independent claim 1 to better define the invention. In particular, independent claim 1 has now been amended to recite that the rotor shaft comprises a first inside magnetic pole portion which is energized by the first coil and a second inside pole portion which is energized by the second coil.

The construction recited in applicant's amended independent claim 1 is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. In particular, neither the Sakamoto nor the Aoshima patents disclose or suggest the rotor shaft comprising a first inside magnetic pole portion which is energized by the first coil and a second inside magnetic pole portion which is energized by the second coil. In particular, the Sakamoto patent discloses a rotating machine having a magnet formed by a cylindrical back yolk 4 and a plurality of permanent magnets 5 attached to the outer surface of the yolk (FIG. 3A-3B; Col. 5, lines 44-53), a rotor shaft 3 onto which the back magnet is fitted (FIGS. 3A-3B; Col. 5, lines 47-48), and poles 11-1 to 11-4 on which coils

12-1 to 12-4 are wound (FIGS. 3A-3B; Col. 7, lines 37-41). The rotor shaft 3 in Sakamoto comprises a cylindrical-shaped shaft which is separated from the coils 12-1 to 12-4 by a significant distance. FIG. 3B.

The Sakamoto patent is completely silent as to the rotor shaft including first and second inside magnetic pole portions which are energized by the first and second coils, respectively. Rather, the arrangement of the rotor shaft 3 and the coils 12-1 to 12-4 in Sakamoto, wherein the rotor shaft is widely separated from the coils, would make it impossible for the rotor shaft of Sakamoto to function as an inside magnetic pole portion. As acknowledged by the Examiner, the Sakamoto patent does not teach the rotor shaft being formed of a magnetic material. Therefore, the rotor shaft of Sakamoto patent cannot be energized by the coils. However, even if the teachings of the Sakamoto patent are combined with the teachings of the Aoshima patent, as suggested by the Examiner, so that the rotor shaft 3 of the Sakamoto patent is formed of a soft magnetic material, the distance between the shaft 3 and the coils 12-1 to 12-4 provides considerable magnetic resistance in the magnetic path between the shaft and the coils, which, in turn, prevents any portion of the shaft from acting as an inside magnetic pole portion energized by one of the coils.

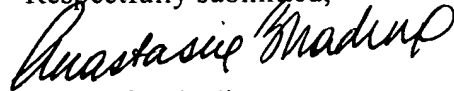
Accordingly, the Sakamoto patent, either alone or in combination with the Aoshima patent, does not teach or suggest the present invention recited in applicant's claim 1, wherein the rotor shaft comprises a first magnetic pole portion which is energized by the first coil and a second inside magnetic pole portion which is energized by the second coil. Applicant's independent claim 1, and its respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the Sakamoto patent and the Aoshima patent and any combinations thereof.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicant's counsel at (212) 790-9286.

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Respectfully submitted,



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